

THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC



You must open the interior eyes of your soul on this light, on this heaven within you, a vast horizon stretching far beyond the realm of human activity, an unexplored country to the majority of human beings.
-Saint Vincent Ferrer

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 12/24 2nd Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16 Luke 1:67-79	TUESDAY 12/25 Isaiah 9:1-6 Luke 2:1-14	WEDNESDAY 12/26 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22
THURSDAY 12/27 First John 1:1-4 John 20:2-8	FRIDAY 12/28 First John 1:5--2:2 Matthew 2:13-18	SATURDAY 12/29 First John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35

Solemnities, Feasts, & Memorials of the Week

Tuesday, Christmas; Wednesday, Stephen; Thursday, John;
Friday, Holy Innocents; Saturday, Thomas Becket

7:00 AM WEEKDAY WORSHIP SERVICES in the MAMMOTH RECTORY

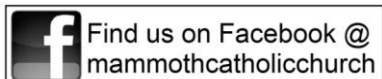
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mass	in church	Service	Service	Mass	Mass
Walk right in and come up the stairs. Stay after for coffee and fellowship.					

ONLINE GIVING

Our parish website, www.mammothcatholicchurch.org, now welcomes secure online giving and financial support of the parish. From the home page, just click "Donate", then "Online Giving" to be taken to a secure off-site page where you can register for online giving and set up regular, automatic participation in the weekly offering, holy days, and annual special collections for national and global causes and organizations. Or, if you choose, you can make a "Quick Give" donation without signing up for an account. Visit us online and check it out. There's no obligation.

MIDNIGHT MASS

The designation "midnight" was used by the Church long before the invention of clocks. It refers to the period of time between sunset and sunrise. A mass at "midnight" would be celebrated during the middle of the night. The 12 o'clock hour for midnight mass gained popularity in the modern era. Midnight Mass in Mammoth will begin at 9 o'clock. With only one priest, it's the best we can do.



FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

As is our custom on every First Friday of the month, we celebrate First Friday devotions, Holy Mass followed by Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Joseph Church, Mammoth, beginning at 7 o'clock PM.

PRAYERS

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreir, Julie Rogers, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, Glenn Inouye, Peter Mariniello, Consuelo Mendoza Aéyon, Brian Venneman, and Gary Boyd.

December 25, 2012

Christmas

Christmas!



MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve, Mammoth
6:00 pm, 9:00 pm

Christmas Day, Mammoth
8:00 am, 5:30 pm (Spanish)

Lee Vining: 10:00 am
Bridgeport: 12:00 noon

**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
OF MONO COUNTY**
P.O. Box 372,
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760-934-6276

www.mammothcatholicchurch.org
email: info@mammothcatholicchurch.org

Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM

Lee Vining:

Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM
Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon

FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 62:1–5; Isaiah 9:1–6;
Isaiah 62:11–12; Isaiah 52:7–10;**

(1)As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you. (2)The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. (3)Say to daughter Zion, your savior comes! (4)Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the Lord comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem.

Christmas is hope fulfilled and the will of God made manifest. It's not that ancient Jerusalem didn't deserve their military and political disasters. They had embarked on a path that would lead to destruction and that's the way they went. God certainly held up his

end of the bargain. God sent the prophets to warn them of the impending doom that lay beyond their blindness. But they paid no heed. They continued to pursue a worldly course, a way that would seem to benefit them politically, militarily and economically. But it was the moral options and the path of justice that they overlooked. God had promised to meet them there with protection, prosperity and well being, but they never showed up. Instead they kept their date with downfall.

Their foolishness, however, could not thwart the power of God's love and God's own justice. Even though the nation had brought about their own ruin, God would not let them languish, stewing in their own juices. God would right the wrong, affect a rescue, and save his people.

The prophet Isaiah could sense this, tuned in as he was to the heart of God. And

from this channel of God's love came the glorious images of the first readings for Christmas. Out of the wreckage of Jerusalem came the ringing of wedding bells!

SECOND READING:

**Acts 13:16–17, 22–25; Titus 2:11–14;
Titus 3:4–7; Hebrews 1:1–6**

(1)John would say, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he." (2)The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject . . . worldly desires. (3)He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (4)In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways . . . In these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

All the confusion in the gospel stories about whether or not John the Baptist was the Christ, or whether or not Jesus was John the Baptist, can be summed up in this: John was the embodiment of the Old Covenant. He was son of a priest, born into righteousness, born into the fulfillment of the law. Jesus was the embodiment of the New Covenant, Son of God, born of flesh and blood, born into justice, born to fulfill God's grace. John was the old, Jesus was the new.

John preached a baptism of repentance, of turning back to the way of righteousness that followed the Commandments of the Law handed down by Moses. Jesus preached a baptism of rebirth, of being transformed by the love of God into a new creation, free from sin, beyond death, filled with God's own Spirit, nourished by God's own body and blood. The prize of the first was *shalom*, the peace, security, prosperity, health and well-being of a people God would set apart in a worldly land of promise. The prize of the second was a heavenly kingdom of joy, fulfillment, and a

lasting peace that the world cannot provide.

GOSPEL:

**Matthew 1:1–25; Luke 2:1–14;
Luke 2:15–20; John 1:1–18**

(1)He decided to divorce her quietly. (2)This will be a sign for you: you will find an infant . . . lying in a manger. (3)All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. (4)And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

History chronicles the failure of human beings to muster the righteousness necessary for union with God. There's just too much ground to cover. God is perfect and people are not. God is timeless spirit and folks are mortal flesh and blood. God has no experience of the suffering that arises from human sinfulness, while all flesh is immersed in sin and constantly in its bondage. Even given the sure and certain knowledge of how to do it, as were the people to whom God gave the Law, human beings are incapable of rising to it. The imperfections of the human person are just too great. Sure, we're made in God's image and likeness; the design is good but the materials are weak. Clay may be easy to form and shape, but it cures brittle and under stress it breaks. So if God wants union, wants us to be happy with him forever, God has to come up with a better idea.

That better idea is Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ it is no longer we who must rise to God, it is God who descends to us. God is born of a woman, takes on human flesh and blood, and becomes one of us.

This is incredible! Because God is willing to endure the pain and suffering of human sin and death, we are saved. We have union with God.

Merry Christmas to everyone! *FP*

En un simple pesebre



Hoy nos ha nacido un salvador, Cristo el Señor. La Buena Nueva consiste en que, desde los más humildes hasta los más altos, todos podemos recibir al Salvador. Este acontecimiento de Jesús como niño en el pesebre llega a su plenitud al final de su vida, cuando él se dio a sí mismo a sus amigos, sus apóstoles, como el Pan de Vida. Y vuelve a llegar hoy en la Eucaristía que celebramos y compartimos continuamente.

En un simple pesebre nació el Salvador del mundo. ¡No había lugar para él en la posada! Las imágenes del niño poderoso, nuestro Consejero Admirable, Héroe Divino y Príncipe de Paz, contrastan con el niño que nació entre la paja. Y sin embargo, ésa fue la realidad. Los pastores lo admiraron, contemplando la obra de Dios, y lo alabaron. María lo conservó todo en su corazón, celebrándolo como la Iglesia quiere celebrarlo ahora: en una meditación actualizada por la presencia de Cristo en medio de ella. ¿Está nuestro corazón abierto para recibir al Salvador del mundo? Meditemos y alabemos: ¡Gloria a Dios en el Cielo!